



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

November 3, 2015

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Health

FROM: Committee Majority Staff

RE: Subcommittee Markup: Summary of the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 2646

The Subcommittee on Health anticipates that an amendment in the nature of a substitute will be offered during consideration of H.R. 2646, Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute includes the following changes:

Title I: Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

The changes in Title I clarify the authority and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders.

Title II: Grant Reform and Restructuring

The changes clarify that the Assistant Secretary is the Director of the National Mental Health Policy Laboratory. It also clarifies the source of funding for the grants in this section.

Title III: Interagency Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee

The changes to this title are technical in nature.

Title IV: Compassionate Communication Under HIPAA and FERPA

The changes to this title are technical in nature.

Title V: Medicare and Medicaid Reforms

Sections 502(a), 503, and 505 were removed. Sec. 501(a) was changed to a rule of construction to clarify federal policy. Sec. 501(b) was modified to exclude psychiatric residential treatment facilities and to establish a maximum length of stay of 20 days per beneficiary per month. Sec. 502(b) was modified to focus on drugs for persons with a diagnosis of serious mental illness. Sec. 504 was modified to adopt HHS technical assistance.

Title VI: Research by the National Institute of Mental Health

The changes to this title are technical in nature.

Title VII: Reauthorization and Reforms

Title VII as introduced in H.R. 2646 was struck. The new Title VII is Reauthorization and Reforms. The changes to this title are technical in nature.

Title VIII: Reporting

The changes to this title are technical in nature.